A Monthly

# INTELIGENCE,

Relating the

# AFFAIRES

OF THE

## People called *Quakers*, in and neare about the City of *London*, Concerning the Violences and Persecution dayly brought forth against them from the First day of the *6th.* Month called *August*, until the First of the *7th.* Month called *September.*

IT is not unknown but that they have been a Persecuted, an afflicted and suffering people for many years, even by all the powers that have Ruled in these Kingdoms, And though many overturns the Lord hath suffered to be, and men of divers & different principles have borne Rule in the Land even such a shave been contrary minded one to another, & some of one sort have been pulled down, and others contrary to them have been set up in the Nation, yet notwithstanding they have always felt the wrath of the Wicked upon them; and all sorts have persecuted them, and this only hath been their Portion in the Land, from all that have had power: However they have disagreed amongst themselves in points of Government, in Church and State, and sought the destruction one sort of another, yet in this they have agreed, and been of one heart and minde, to Persecute, Imprison, and deale Violently with this people, as if they were a people only for the wrath of ungodly men; And this is not unknown to the World, though all men should be silent, and they have Patience, yet Prudence teacheth at this time to make known and publish some of those hard dealings, and persecutions they have lately met withal in and about this City.

*First ſo it was the third day of the Month aforeſaid, being the firſt day of the week, there was a Meeting at the* Bull and Mouth *(the uſual place and time of their meeting) and the people being peaceably ſitting together and waiting upon the Lord, to feel the vertue of his Life and Power and preſence amongſt them, as at other times, while ſo waiting between the houres of Ten and Eleven in the Morning, came violently rushing into the meeting, a party of Souldiers, Commanded by a Perſon whoſe qualities his Neighbours can tell you of, and his name may be mentioned in ſeaſonable time, he came into the Meeting with his ſword drawn and his party ſome of them in the like manner, who fell on to beat and abuſe the poor Innocent people in a very violent and ſhameful way, with their Canes in the one hand and ſwords drawn in the other, neither ſparing* Age nor Sex *but laid on with what force and ſtrength they could, marching up the Meeting on this wiſe, and making themſelves way by beating and kicking, and hurling the people on heaps, and puſhing of them with the ends of their Muskets and weapons, and a certain perſon being declaring [illegible] fear of the Lord among the people* to the edefying of their Souls, *the Souldiers ran violently upon him and with much force pul'd him down, and cryed* ſecure him; *and alſo continued to hale and beat the people, crying begone begone, Nicknaming, and ſcorning, and threatning, and ſweaving and crying* Fire at them; *And thus they continued for about two houres; in the moſt cruel and abuſive manner as may be named, laying on upon the heads and ſhoulders, and faces of the people, with their ſwords and Staves and buts of Muskets, and haling them out of the doors, and many went away ſore bruiſed and the people never reſiſting them, nor uſing many words towards them, only one perſon asked the Souldiers in theſe words, do ye know (ſaid he) whoſe work ye are a doing, and one Souldier anſwered in theſe words with an Oath.* He for his part ſerved the Devil, and his work he would do: *ſo when they had wearied themſelves with ſtriking, and haling, and kicking in manner as declared, they took away one man and foure women, and guarded them away to* Newgate, *where the Goalor received them without either Warrant or Mittimus, and there they ſtaid ſome houres, and then were led away before Major General* Brown *whoſe Examination of them was much like that of others, of whom ye have former heard: And the Young man (being a good ſervant, and well beloved of his Maſter who was not a* Quaker) *was ſent to* Bridwell, *where he was cruelly tormented for divers days being forced to ſtand in the Manacles to his grevious pain, at that time alſo there were two more of his freinds in the ſame place, put there only for being at a meeting, who had been forced to ſtand in the ſame manner for many days till ſuch time as they were both taken with Sickneſs,*

*and*

and the one of them at that very time was nigh Death in appearance, and his Maſter (who loved his good and honeſt ſervant well and was no Quaker) made application to Sir Richard Brown to have his ſervant releaſed uſing his Sickneſs as an Argument thereunto, to which the merciloſs man replied, Let him dye like a Rogue as he is, & ſuch like words; And after ſome Examination the foure women alſo were ſent back to Newgate, where they remained till the Seſſions, and then were Indicted for being at an unlawful Tumultuous Aſſembly, &c. As it was ſaid, and they were Tryed, and Fined each one a certain ſum.

The firſt day following the people kept their Meeting at the ſame place, according as they uſe to do, and when they were gathered together, and a perſon being moved to ſpeak to them in the fear of the Lord, In comes a party of Souldiers ruſhing and rioting, with a noyſe of Swords and Armour, and crying to the people be gone what do you here, and went up to the place where the perſon that was ſpeaking ſtood, and pulled him down and halled him with violence and tooke him away to Newgate with a Guard of Souldiers, where he remained ſome weeks. The 12. 13. and 14. days of the Month the Seſſions were held at Old Bayly, to which place divers Companies of the Quakers ſometime 12. and ſometime 20. together were led and halled as great Malifactors before their Bench, and as they paſſed the people cryed Ah what woful days are theſe, that ſuch honeſt people with ſuch good Countenances ſhould be halled up and down to Courts and Priſons? what pitty it is? cryed they; well being ſet to the Bar, like Theives and Robbers, a Iury was called (ſuch perſons ye muſt know as would well ſute the time and do their intended buſineſs, & deale hardly with the poor people, as indeed it proved in the reſult of the matter) And the Indictments being read, and Witneſſes heard, then the Priſoners were asked what they had to ſay for their defence, to which many of the Priſoners anſwered, and pleaded both Law and Reaſon, and made ſome exceptions againſt the Witneſſes, who were the very men that had themſelves Illegally apprehended the perſons, and were the very partyes againſt the Priſoners, and yet were called to be Witneſſes too; and there was ſuch ſtammering and Contradiction in their own mouths, made the beholders hiſſe at them, ſometimes 8. ſometime 10. of the Priſoners called in a Company, and for the moſt part it was the man that commanded the party of Souldiers that beat them, and abuſed them, and apprehended them as ye have heard, who was called to ſwear and Evidence againſt the very ſame perſons whom he had ſtruck and halled with his party of Souldiers in manner as aforeſaid; and though the Priſoners did juſtly except againſt the Witneſſes as being parties and the perſons that had Violated the Law themſelves and ſuch like, yet no notice

*of this would be taken by the Court, nay though one witness said one thing and said contrary to the same thing in one breath, yet no notice would be taken, but all passed as right evidence, and when the Judge asked one Witness (that was the only witness for there was none but he against* 10. *persons)* are you certaine said the Judge, that these are the persons that ye took at that Meeting? *The Witness replied,* My Lord said he I do not know the faces of the men, but these mens names I have in a Note here: *Well all this passed as currant, both with Court and Jury (Judge ye what men the Jury were made up of) and all was taken as verity and most of the Prisoners were taken from the Bar, and not suffered to speak their minds in defence of their Cause, but hailed rudely away by the Gaolors. And by such kinde of proceedings, were the Prisoners brought in guilty and Sentenced by the Court so much Fine, some a hundred Marks, and some twenty pound, and some less, and all committed to Prison till payment, and divers of the Prisoners were not tryed at all, for no man would appear to accuse them, nor Witness against them yet were they not discharged by the Court as in Justice they ought to have been, but were sent back to Prison again.*

*All this Month and for two Months before the Prisons about the City, especially* Newgate, *have been full of these Prisoners for all this Summer time, and many together thronged up in narrow stinking holes and not permitted to have Aire, but so straightned for room that many great inconveniences have befallen them, and dangerous sicknesses and diseases have come upon many, insomuch that divers have fallen sick of dangerous Fevours, and some been restored again, and Eight or Ten of the Prisoners have layd down the body, even for a Testimony against their Persecutors, whose blood will be accounted one day, in the number of Innocents, and according to the Judgements of many, even some of the Jury men that sat upon the dead bodyes, were of that Judgement, that the very occasion of their Sickness, was the straightness and noysomness of the Prisons, being so hot and in such throngs, that they had not room to lye down all at once, which have occasioned the Death of divers honest men, and for sometime every day some fell sick, and two & two were carried to their Graves together from* Newgate, *which made the people cry out of the cruelty of such proceedings, that honest men should lose their lives in Prisons, and be borne away by two and two together in one week, which made the beholders astonished, and this is observable, that the most of the persons that dyed upon their deathbeds cryed out of the cruelty of the Rulers,* and that a Terrible day is at hand upon them, a day of Vengeance upon the wicked, and desired all their friends to be faithful, and such like words were in their mouths

at

at the time of their departure: *who we beleived gave up their lives for the Truth and Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, and their reward is with them for ever, and their Memories shall live for ever and never dye, nor be blotted out of the Record of the faithful Martyers.*

*About the* 19. 20. *dayes of the month, the Sessions were held again at* Old Bayley, *to which place it was supposed that more of the Prisoners would have been brought in order to tryal, for many remained still untried, but nothing was laid to their charge as yet; for some of them were never before any Magistrate, but taken out of Meetings by rude Souldiers as ye have heard, and guarded away to Newgate, and never had to examination nor committed by any civil Officer, but not one of the prisoners were called that Sessions: About this time there was a Sessions at* Hickses *Hall for the County of* Middlesex, *where divers of the people called* Quakers *were brought, for there was then in new prison* (the Goal for that County) *about* 50 *persons of the said people, who at divers times had been taken out of several meetings in the county, and most of them committed by the Lieutenant of the Tower; and some of them had laid in that prison three months and never called to any tryal before this time; and divers persons were then called and indicted for being at unlawful Meetings &c. and only seven of them were fined, 6 of them* 5 *pounds a piece, and one man ten pounds, and sent to Newgate there to continue till payment. And the* 27 *day of the month, the Sessions were kept again at* Hickses Hall, *to which place all the whole company of Prisoners were called, before the Bench above forty in number, and only called over, and some questions asked them and all discharged by the Court, only five excepted, who were sent to* Newgate *as excepted persons, and the discharged persons sent back to Prison again, and kept there for fees about five dayes, and then all let goe forth at their Liberty.*

*The occasion of their Release was on this wise; There being about two hundred of the said people at divers times taken out of their meetings and committed into the Goals for* Lordon *and* Middlesex *as ye have heard; And the King having Information and knowledge of the same (as is supposed by some of the Magistrates of the City) he was pleased (whether upon any Applications made to him by some of them for what end I know not) upon the occasion of the Queens first coming to* Whitehall, *being a day and time of Rejoycing with them for that reason to send a Letter to the Maior and Magistrates, signifying,* That whereas divers persons going under the name of *Quakers* and others of seperation, were imprisoned for being at unlawful Meetings, yet did profess all obedience to him, & it was hoped that for the time to come some of the said people, would Conform themselves, and upon the occasion of his Royal Consorts first coming

ing to his Pallace at *Whitehal*, he would have them to diſcharge and enlarge all the ſaid people out of the Goals of *London* and *Middleſex*, excepting ſuch as had been Indicted for refuſing the Oath of Allegiance or were Ringleaders or Preachers amongſt them. *This was the very purport of the Letter, according to which all, ſaving a few Perſons excepted were diſcharged in a few days after, only by the Goalor of* Newgate *thoſe that were in his Priſon, were kept by him about five days for fees, as before is ſaid concerning the Goalor of* New-Priſon, *till at laſt the Sheriffe in perſon went to* Newgate *the 28th. day of the Month, and what diſcourſe as fell out between him, and the head Goalor I know not, only I heard ſome words of croſeneſs was between them about the buſineſs, the Goalors denyed to let them forth till they had payd their fees, but the Sheriff would have them forth accordingly he cauſed the doors to be opened, and the Priſoners were called over and all that were committed by Sir* Richard Brown *he ſet at free liberty, except only about ſix that were excepted by the Maior and the Court, according to the Kings Letter, ſo that at this time the Goales of* London, *and* Middleſex, *are almoſt clear of the* Quakers, *ſaving about twelve remaining.*

*But the Envy of ſome men againſt this people was not now at an end, though the Kings Clemency and favour was extended towards them in Releaſing of them, for the 23d. day of the Month the very day of Publication of the Kings Letter,* John Boulton, Iſack Gray, *and* John Crook, *the 3. perſons that were Indicted, and Sentenced into a Premunire, and had their Eſtates ſeized upon immediately after ſentence, as ye have heard heretofore, were ſet free by the Goalor, and went out of the Priſon, all looking upon themſelves diſcharged perſons, and were Actually delivered by the Goalor himſelf, nowithſtanding two days after the Goalors Servants fetched two of them into Priſon again, only* J. Crook *was gone into the Country and could not be found, the bottom of which buſineſs, nor the reaſon of it cannot yet be found out, but many do cry out at the Iniuſtice of it, that men ſhould be delivered out of Priſon by the Goalor himſelf & within two days ſend his Servants to take up men again legally delivered, and hurried them into Priſon, where they are yet detained: Alſo the 24th. day of the Month the very next day after the publication of the Kings Letter being the firſt day of the Week there was a Meeting, according as it uſe to be, in* Wheeler *ſtreet, into which meeting, when the people were quietly waiting upon the Lord in came ruſhing ſome Officers and violently abuſed ſome and took away about nine perſons, and brought them before a Iuſtice of Peace, and they were committed to* New Priſon *and kept twelve days and then ſet at liberty, alſo the ame day in the Evening Sir* Richard Brown *(ſome of his Military Officers being*

being in a Company with him) met a person in the street going about his occasions, who had been let forth of Newgate the day before discharged by the Kings Letter; said Sir Richard Brown when he saw him, There's a Quaker, take him up and carry him to the Counter, and without more a do, the person was carryed by some Military Officers, and had away to Woodstreet Counter, where he remains to this day.

Now we draw near to the end of the moneth which ends in the same manner, as it began with cruelty, wickedness, and violence; for on the last day of the month being the First day, the people were peaceably met together at the Bull and Mouth, and for two houres kept their meeting and were ready to dismiss their meeting, and after the 11. hour came rushing and roaring into the meeting an Officer of Major General Browns with a Party of men with their swords drawn, in the rudest manner as may be expressed, and as soon as they were entred within the house among the people, they cryed shut the door make it fast, which was done by some of them; many of the people wondered at their intentions, thinking their purpose had been to have murthered them; but the Officer and his party fell on to beat and strike and wound the people in a fearful manner, knocking down divers to the very ground, where lay 6. or 8. persons all at once without doors dragged forth by head and shoulders and cast down upon the pavement and in kennels, half dead by sore blowes and inhumane strokes, the Officer having in one hand a club about a yard long, which seemed to be as much as he could well handle for bigness and weight, with which he laid on about him without mercy, or manhood, as did the most of his party in the most unmerciful manner that ever any beheld in this City in time of peace for they neither regarded age nor sex, man nor woman, young nor old, but cut and bruised on the one side and on the other, and hailed them into the streets, and there beat some down to the ground again: One person was knocked down five times, and such was the cry of the lookers on, for there were aboundance in the streets that were no Quakers, that many of them got greivous blows for their pittiful words, who cryed out shame, shame, that ever these things should be seen in London, that one neighbour should thus fall upon another, like Massacry and Butchery, in such inhumane sort for the blood lay visible in the streets and running down mens faces and shoulders. Thus they continued in a vile manner abusing the poor people for about the space of two hours, insomuch that one man was wounded on his head and his scull cut so that his brains was seen, as some say; who was forthwith had to a Surgion, and he lies now very weak of his wound, by some thought irrecoverable; also another person lying weak, and at the point of death about 10 days, is now dead by reason of blows and bruises received, which is settled upon him

him inward) for he was seen knocked down dead in the street, and then the man that did it violently trampled with his feet upon his heart, one Woman was wounded and many sore bruised, the marks to be seen upon their heads & shoulders to this hour, & tis thought some will never be sound persons again, and divers went bleeding away who had like to have fainted ere they got home by reason of bruises and wounds, and when it was asked some of the Souldiers why would they be so cruel to their Neighbours, one of them answered, nay they were more merciful then they should for they had order to kill, and his Musket was double charged with bullets, as the most of the partys were to his knowledge, & some were seen to chaw their bullets when they loaded their Muskets: And one hanger & one Weapon were both seen broken by force of blows over mens heads: And as if this were not enough that the Souldiers could do, it was observed that some wicked persons not under command fell in with the Souldiers & drew their Swords, one or two Papists as will be proved if need require, and they were seen to lay about them and strike and wound with their swords, and one that knew one of them, spake to him and said, is it not a shame for you to be here at this work, that are a suffering people your selves for shame, for shame leave off, & then he shrunk away? Another footman being an Irishman and a Papist, who had a kind woman there called a Quaker, told her he saw divers there of their Church, which did beat and cut, and laid about them in a violent manner, and one in particular who is generally reputed a Papist, a great Officer in the Yellow Regiment of the Trainbands, and not pertaining to the Red Regiment, who was that day on the duty, and by some is said to be Apothecary to the Q was there fell in with the Souldiers and seen by many that knew him well, (whose place & name is well known though shall not be now mentioned) to lay about with a naked Sword in a very violent manner, and when they had continued thus without ceasing for about two hours they went away for new recruites, and in less then an houre came again and many more of them, and then the people were coming together again for the afternoon meeting, and the Souldiers fell on again in the same manner as before, and continued till five in the Evening and only one man committed for only pointing with his hand to a person that lay in the street, thus the last day of the month was spent, let all honest and sober people Iudge of these things, moreover the next day some of the same Souldiers were heard to say, the next Sunday they would cut the throats of some if they were hanged for it, divers persons this month have been committed, because they could not send out souldiers in the Trainbands, who have refused in Conscience to send out men, to deal thus by themselves and their friends as ye have heard; for this kind of dealing is most of the work which the Trainebands in London have done for this last three Months.

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THE END